

I have some comments (concerning media ownership - Docket 02-277) which I would like to direct at those in your organization who seem to think it their duty to prostrate public interest to the whim of corporate interest, rather than the reverse, which evidently someone needs reminding, is their job.

Specifically, I've been reading a lot about the changes implemented recently by Chairman Powell and crew, and I have to say - the media ownership changes that have been arrived at are absolutely positive for commercial interests and positively negative for diversity, localism and competition in broadcasting and print - a consensus evidently shared by all but Chairman Powell and top industry execs/ reps.

Super-specifically, it smacks of kickback and graft and, given what I've read about the industry paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for Powell et al. to nance about to corporate conferences (as if these companies were your benefactors rather than charges to regulate), it is obvious your decision was bought 'n' paid-for by (your bosses in) the industry. Every public statement I've heard or read from Chairman Powell on this matter reconfirms his myopia and misaligned allegiances. Sans industry clamor and Chairman Powell's Olympic-class mental gymnastics, I really doubt this transaction would have been processed.

Now let me dispense with specificity and simply put it succinctly - Chairman Powell is not stupid, therefor, this sale was willful. This shameful bald-face sell-off at the expense, even to a degree, of a most valuable public resource to corporate (or any) interest is a treasonous betrayal of the trust we-the-public vest in our officials to protect public interest. You see, treason is selling-out your country. It doesn't matter to whom you sell it.

Thank you.

-Monte Hurd

P.S.,

It is easier to get trapped in a world where only money and the moneyed matter if your trips and nancing about are predominately scmoozing sessions at the corporate trough. Dare, no, deign (irony intended) to actually engage in democracy (little "d", no dollar sign) and the things that are truly important in life may become more readily perceptible.